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POETRY.

THE STAR AND THE LILY.

It was an evening calm and still,
As e'er held earth in silvery fold;
The azure curtains of the sky
Were fringed with gleaming gems of gold;
The wandering airs of night grew faint
Upon the silver-lighted stream;
The fragrant breath of roses came,
Like thoughts that weave a poet's dream:
Soft clouds were floating off to play,
Like glorious birds just loosed from Heaven,
While high above their fleecy folds
There gleamed a loving star of even.

Each night his smiling rays came out,
And sought a lowly murmuring stream,
Along whose banks, soft fleeced with light,
Fair lilies drooped their heads to dream.
One lily, pale and dewy-eyed,
Woo'd by the moonlight-colored air,
Poured from her heart the wistful love
That long had lain entangled there.
'Mid odors, dreams, and murmurings,
That to the shrine of night belong,
She breathed in fragrant, passioned sighs,
The love that thrilled her soul to song.

That loving star, so pure and bright,
Seemed cold and coy as maiden fears;
Yet still she raised her heaven-ward eyes,
And brimmed her lily cup with tears.
And when his beams came trembling down
To kiss the wave that laved her feet,
She slowly dropped her snowy brow,
Till wave, and star, and lily met.
That loving touch so wildly thrilled,
She wished nor prayed for greater bliss
Than fondly look the love she felt,
And nightly bend beneath his kiss.

When morning came, with blushing hues,
The star would pale upon her heart,
But not the memory of his beams—
They grew to be of life a part,
E'en in the garish hours of noon;
But daylight's veil of golden hue
Concealed his loving smiles from her.
Thus passed the weary, lagging hours—
Pale flower below, and star above,
Till pitying angel from the sky
Stooped down and blessed their dream of love.

He took the star beams from their throne,
And placed them in the lily's breast,
Where now no more they wandering roam,
But there forever sweetly rest.
A tiny vase of fragrance rare
Contains that glowing star of love,
Unfold its leaves, and nestling there,
Behold a snowy, spotless dove,
Enshrined within the lily's cup.
With folded wing and dewy eyes,
It seems to thee a sacred thing,
As emblem sent from Paradise—
A beauteous type of woman's love,
Deep hidden from the world apart;
A dove that never tries its wing,
But broods and nestles in the heart.

MISCELLANY.

THE SEWING SOCIETY.

[From the Widow Bedott Papers.]

I wish to gracious you could attend one of our sewin' society meetin's. You never see nothin' to beat 'em, I'll be bound for't. We've had tew now. At the first one, at Squire Birsley's ther was twenty-five present. Miss Birsley had got some shirts cut out of o' Cappen Smalley's cloth, and as fast as they come in she sot 'em to work—at least she gin 'em some work, but ther was so much talkin' to dew ther was precious little sewin' done. Ther tongues went a good deal faster'n ther fingers did, and the worst on't was, they was all a runnin' at once. Ther was an everlastin' sight o' talkin', but it did seem as if they wouldent never come to no decision in creation.—'Twa'nt expected we should dew much at the first meetin' more'n to elect the managers, and make up our minds how often we should meet—and I begun to think we shouldent dew even that much, there was such o' sight o' discussin' and disputin' about everything. Some was for meetin' once a week, and some thought 'twas altogether too often. Some was for stayin' to tea, and some was opposed to't. Some thought 'twould be a good plan to stay and work evenin's, and some was of opinion 'twouldn't pay, bein' as we'd have to burn so many candles and lamps. Ther wan't nothing said about what object we'd work for at the first meetin'—thought we'd leave that till next time.

Well, we talked and talked and talked, and the upshot on't was, Miss Birsley was appointed *president*—Miss Ben Stillman, Miss Dr Lippincott and Miss Deacon Fustick, *managers*—Polly Mariar Stillman, *secretary*—and Liddy Ann Buill, *treasurer*. Moreover, we agreed to meet once a fornight, at tew o'clock in the afternoon, stay to tea and work till dark. When we'd got through with our bisiness, we had tea—quite a plain tea. Miss Birsley don't approve o' makin' much fuss for sewin' society——because if ye dew, ther'll be some that'll feel as if they couldent afford to have it to their houses. She dident give us but one kind o' cake, but 'twas light and good, and so was the bread; and we had sliced meat and cheese.—Miss Birsley dident say nothing about it but she hoped the rest would foller her example.—I made up my mind *I* would anyhow, whether the rest did or not.

Well the ladies all eat as if they liked it, and they praised up everything at a wonderful rate. They *never* laid tooth to such bread in all their lives; the butter was superfine; the cold meat was *delicious*; and for the cake it *was* a mystery to them how Miss Birsley managed to *always* have such first rate cake. Miss Deacon Peabody declared she'd eat such a hearty supper she was afeared she should be sick. After tea, Miss Jo Gipson invited us to meet at their house next time, and then we went hum. While we was in the bed room a puttin' on our things, I heerd Miss Peabody whisper to Miss Stillman and say, 'Did you ever see anything beat that tea in all your born days? No presarves at all!' 'I never did,' says Miss Stillman. 'If I can't give 'em a better tea when they meet at our house, I'll give up.'

Well, at the next meetin' ther was about the same number present, and we talked up what we'd dew with the money. The difficulty was, the members couldent agree upon nothin'—some wanted to work for *this* objiet, and some wanted to work *for that*. Miss Skinner and some o' the rest thought we'd ought to sew for the missionaries, but most on 'em opposed it, 'cause they wanted to *see* what become o' the money. Miss Stubbles thought 'twould be a good plan to establish a school for the colored sect—I s'pose the Professor put her up to't—but nobody else dident seem to be in favor on't; and Sister Bedott (she attended,) she said *she* never'd agree to that, 'twould be money throw'd away, for niggers would be niggers, dew what ye would to elevate 'em. Miss Fustick (she come in and sot a spell with her things on—said she couldent stay long, jest dropped in on her way to the maternal society meetin') she thought we couldn't dew better'n to give the avails of our labor to the 'Sons o' Temperance.'

'Sons o' yer granny,' says Liddy Ann Buill, says she, (you know she and Miss Fustick's a quarrelin'.) When she spoke up so, Miss Fustick looked awful mad, and got up to go; when she reached the door, she turned round and says she, 'Perhaps Miss Buill would ruther work for the old maids' consolation society that they talk o' formin.' Good afternoon, ladies!' and off she cut afore Liddy Ann had time to answer. The gals all tittered, and Liddy Ann lookt wonderful wombleseropt. I don't know but she'd a cleared out if Miss Birsley hadent a smoothed it over in her cunnin' way; she laughed, and says she, 'What, Miss Buill, you gals don't mean to help the old maids, I hope! I say let 'em take care o' themselves' Liddy Ann grinned and looked quite satisfied.

Well, they talked and talked and talked, jest as they did at the first meetin', to no more purpose neither only to get more ryled up than they did then. It seemed as if every one had got a partikler pint to carry and was determined the rest should yield to't. I tried a number o' times to make a proposition I'd thought on, but ther was so many that talked louder and faster'n what I could, that I couldent for the life o' me git nobody to listen tew me. At last I went to Miss Birsley and told her my idee, and axed her what she thought on't.—She said she liked the notion. 'Well, then, you propose it,' says I, 'for I can't git 'em to listen to me if I try till Doomsday.' So she spoke out, and says she, 'Ladies!' but ther was such a racket nobody dident hear her. So she tried agin: 'Ladies, I say!' but still they dident pay no attention. Then she took the tongs and knockt on the stove as loud as ever she could. 'Order!' says she. They stoppt talkin' then, and lookt round to see what she wanted. 'Ladies,' says she, 'Miss Magwire has proposed an object to work for that strikes me as an excellent one. She thinks we'd better raise enough to repair the meetin'-house, and for my part, I think we couldent do better; the meetin'-house is in a miserable condition; the plasteren's a commin' off in ever so many places, and the pulpit's a forlorn old thing, away up in the air; it's enough to break a body's neck to look at the minister, and shakes like an old egg-shell. Mr. Tuttle says he's a'most afeard to go into it. Don't you think 'twould be a good plan to tear it down and build another? Now don't all speak at once. We never shall dew nothing in creation if we don't have some sort o' order. Miss Skinner, what's *your* opinion?'

Well, Miss Skinner was delighted with the idee, and so was the Grimeses, and the Fosters, and the Peabodys. Miss Peabody said the Baptists and the Episcopals were all a pintin' at us for lettin' our house o' worship be in such a condition. Miss John Brewster said she'd long thought our meetin'-house was a disgrace to the village; she'd no doubt but what 'twould be an advantage to the cause of religion to repair it, for the Widder Pettibone told her how't if we'd had a decent meetin'-house *she* wouldent a went off and jined the Episcopals, but she got so disgusted with the old nasty house, and so tired a stretchin' her neck to see the minister, that she couldent stan' it no longer.

'The dear me!' says Charity Grimes, 'I want to know if she gives *that* as a reason!—Why, everybody knows she went there 'cause Curnel Dykeman's an Episcopol.'

'Yes,' says Polly Mariar Stillman, 'I guess it's ginerally known what took *her* there.'

'She's a wonderful oneasy critter,' says Miss Peabody; 'she's ben a Baptist and a Presbyterian, and now she's an Episcopal, I wonder what she'll be next.

'Well, it's cause she's a widder,' says Glory Ann Billins 'I never know'd a widder yet but what was oneasy as a fish out o' water. I raly believe it's nat'ral tew 'em.'

'Jest so, says Liddy Ann Buill; 'widders will be widders.'

'Not if they can help it,' says I. I was sorry as soon as I said it, Sister Bedott lookt so mad. I tell ye she gin me an awful blowin-up when we got hum—said everybody in the room thought I meant her, and she dident mean to go to the meetin' no more. I don't know whether she will or not.

'Well, they'd got hold o' the Widder Pettibone, and they dident let her drop right off; if her ears dident burn that afternoon, I'm mistaken. Some on 'em got so engaged talkin' about her they stopt sewin' intirely. Bymeby Miss Birsley got out o' patience, and knockt on the stove. 'Order!' says she. When they got still, says she—'When the ladies have got the Widder Pettibone sufficiently done up, I'd like to have 'em take hold and dew up ther shirts.' 'Law me,' says old Aunt Betsy Crocker, 'they ain't a dewin' her up; they're a pickin' on her tew pieces.' Aunt Betsy ain't no great talker, but when she does speak she always says somethin' to the pint. She's a real clever old soul, good to everybody, dumb critters and all. She was disappointed when she was young, so she hain't never got married; lives all alone; nobody in the house but her and Gruff, her old dog. She thinks the world o' Gruff. I went in to see her one evenin' last winter. Gruff was asleep on a rug behind the stove, and ther was a great pan o' vittals settin' by him. I thought 'twas somethin' she'd sot there to warm, so I says, says I, 'Ain't you afeared Gruff'll be pokin' his nose into yer meat?' 'Law me,' says she, 'that's there a purpose for him. I always set somethin' by him when he goes to bed, so he'll find it handy if he happens to wake up hungry in the night.' 'My sakes,' says I, 'I woulent take all that pains for a dog.' 'Law me!' says she, 'Gruff don't know he's a dog—he thinks he's *folks*.

'Well, ladies, says Miss Birsley, 'if its a possible thing, I'd like to have it decided whether we shall repair the meetin'-house or not.—I think we'd better put it to vote. Them that's in favor on't will please to signify it by holdin' up their right hand.' Well, all o' the members held up their right hand exceptin' Miss Ben Stillman and Polly Mariar. 'Miss Stillman,' says Miss Birsley, 'I see that you and Polly Mariar don't hold up yer hands. Don't you approve of appropriatin' the money for that purpose?'

'Well, I can't say as I disapprove on't,' says Miss Stillman, 'but I should think we'd better not be in a hurry about making up our minds what we'll dew with the money.'

'What's the use o' waitin'?' says Miss Birsley. 'For my part, I think we should go ahead with more spirrit if we had an object fixed on to work for.' 'I think so tew,' says Miss Stillman; 'but, you know we'd ought to be unanimous.' 'Then why don't you agree with us?' says Miss Birsley; 'that's the way to be unanimous.'

'I mean,' says Miss Stillman, says she, 'that we'd ought to wait till ther's a full meetin' afore we vote.'

'The land alive!' says Miss Birsley, 'I don't know what you call a full meetin' if this ain't one.'

'The fact is,' says Polly Mariar, stretchin' her great mouth from ear to ear and displayin' all her big teeth—(*Jeff says her mouth looks like an open sepulchre full o' dead men's bones*)—'the fect is,' says she, 'mar and me's of opinion that we hadent ought to vote till Miss Samson Savage is consulted.'

'Miss Samson Savage ain't a member o' the society,' says Miss Birsley, 'and she don't go to meetin' once in six months. I don't know what we should want to consult her for, I'm sure.'

'But you know,' says Miss Stillman, 'her means is such that she's able to contribbit a great deal to any object she approves of.'

'And we'd ought to be carefu about offendin' her,' says Polly Mariar, for, you know, she withdraw'd herself from the Baptists because their sewin' society didont dew as she wanted to have 'em.'

'Did the Baptists break down after it?' says Miss Birsley. Jest then the door opened, and in marched Miss Samson Savage. But afore I go on, I'd ought to tell you something about her. She's one o' the *big bugs* here—that is, she's got more money than a'most anybody else in town. She was a tailoress when she was a gal, and they say she used to make a dretful sight o' mischief among the folks where she sewed. But that was when she lived in Varmount. When Mr. Savage *married* her, he was one o' these ere speculators. Wonderful fellers to make money, them Varmounters.—Husband says they come over the Green Mountains with a spellin'-book in one hand and a halter in t'other, and if they can't git a school to teach, they can steal a hoss. When they first come to our place, he was a follerin' the tin-peddlin' business; he used to go rumblin' round in his cart from house to house, and the rich folks rather turned up their noses at him, or he consated they did, and it made him awful wrathy; so he determined he'd be richer'n any on 'em, and pay 'em off in their own coin. Old Smith says he's heerd him time and agin make his boast that he'd ride over all their heads some day—dident seem to have no higher eend in view than to be the richest man in Scrabble Hill. He sot his heart and soul and body on't, and knowin' how to turn every cent to the best advantage, and bein' wonderful sharp at a bargain, he succeeded; everything he took hold of prospered, and without actilly bein' what you could call dishonest, afore many years every body allowed he was the richest man in the place. So he built a great big stun house and furnished it wonderful grand; his wife wouldent have a bit o' furnitewer made here—nothin' would dew but she must send away to Philadelphy for't. And such furnitewer was never seen in the town afore! Such elegant sofys and cheers and curtins, and ever so many curus consarns that I don't know the name of, and I guess she don't neither. So she sot up for a lady. She was always a coarse, boisterous, high-tempered critter, and when her husband grow'd rich, she grow'd pompous and overbearin.' She made up her mind she'd rule the roost, no matter what it cost—she'd be the *first* in Scrabble Hill. She know'd she wan't a lady by nature nor by edication, but she thought mabby other folks would be fools enough to think she was if she made a great parade. So she begun by dressin' more, and givin' bigger parties than anybody else. Of course, them that thinks money's the main thing (and ther's plenty such here and everywhere,) is ready to flatter her and make a fuss over her, and approve of all her dewin's. If ther's anybody that *won't* knuckle tew her, I tell ye they have to take it *about east*. She abuses 'em to their faces and slanders 'em to their backs. Such conduct wouldent be put up with in a poor woman; but them that would be for drummin' *me* out o' town if I should act so, is ready to uphold Miss Samson Savage, and call it *independence* and *frankness* in her. She's got so she prides herself on it. She says *she* ain't afeared to tell folks what she thinks of 'em—if *she* don't like anybody, they *know* it purty soon. Husband says she wouldent think it no harm to set her neighbor's house a fire if she done it in the *day-time*. She shows her independence in another way sometimes, by riggin' out in old duds that would disgrace a washerwoman, and trainin' round town, makin' calls and so forth, sometimes in an old wagin and sometimes afoot. It tickles her wonderfully to hear folks whisper as she goes along—'Jest see Miss Savage! that'll dew for *her*, but 'twouldent do for everybody.'

When she goes out in company, she 'nopolizes the hull o' the conversation. She's determined that everybody in the room shall have the benefit of all *she* has to say. So she talks up so awful loud that she drownds everybody else's voice, and they have to listen tew her whether or no. I was to a party a spell ago where she was, and from the minnit she come in—(thank fortin' she never comes arly—always keeps the tea a waitin' for her)—I say, from the minnit she come till it broke up, she talked without cessation. It did seem to me as if I should go distracted. In the course o' the evenin', somebody axed Pardon Pettibone's wife (she 'twas Katy Carey) to play on the pianner and sing; she's a beautiful player, and I'm very fond o' hearin' her. When she sot down to the music, thinks me, Miss Savage *will* hold her tongue now, I'm sure. But I was mistaken. *She* wan't a gwine to be put down by a pianner, not she, so she jest pitched her voice a peg higher and went on with her stuff—all about her hired help—what Bets, the cook, done; how Suke, the chambermaid, managed, and how Nab, the washerwoman, carried sail. I couldent take no sense of the music at all. Miss Stillman and Polly Mariar, and a few more, draw'd up round her and swallered all she said, but some o' the young folks that wanted to hear the music, lookt as if they wished Miss Samson Savage was furder.

But it's plain to be seen with all her pretensions she feels oneasy and oncomfortable the hull time. I've noticed that yer *codfish gentility* always dew. She knows she ain't the *ginniwine article*, and so she tries to make up for't in brass and bluster. If anything goes on without her bein' head man, she always tries to put it down. She was gone a journey when the sewin' society was started, and I s'pose she was awful mad to think we darst to git up such a thing without consultin' her.—Miss Birsley called on her when she got hum, and axed her to jine. But she said she wouldent—she despised sewin' societies, dident want nothin' to dew with 'em. Miss Birsley dident tell nobody what she said but me; she know'd 'twould make some o' the wimmin mad and scare the rest—but we both know'd 'twouldent be long afore she'd be pokin' her nose in among us.

Well, as I said afore, she come a marchin' into the room where we all sot. She's a great, tall, raw-boned woman, and steps off like a trainer. She had on a dirty pink sun-bunnit, and an old ragged blue calicer open-gownd (what Jeff calls a *shimly*) over her dress. She dident so much as say 'How-de-dew' to nobody, but strammed right across the room and sot down; then she huv her old sun-bunnit onto the floor, and draw'd a long breath, and says she—'Well, I vow. I'm tired—been round a shoppin', and shoppin's no small biness with me. I don't go into a shop and stan' an hour, and make the clerks haul down all ther goods, and then buy *tew-cents' worth*, as some folks dew'—here she lookt round at Miss Grimes and Charity—'when *I* trade, I trade to some amount, and no mistake. I was rather tired afore I left hum—had company to dinner—dident think o' comin' here when I come out.'—Caroline Gipson thought she was a gwine to apologise for her dress, so she says, says she, 'Oh, no apologies necessary—'twas jest as well to come in as you was.' 'What!' says she, 'I hope ye don't think I'd a dressed up if I *had* a know'd I was a comin' here?—not I. I don't believe in riggin' up to come to a sewin' meetin', as some folks dew'—(here she squinted at the Skinners—they had on new plaid dresses) 'but 'tain't everybody that can *afford* to wear an old double gownd. I says to Poll, my waitin'-maid, 'Poll,' says I, 'go to the lumber-room and git my sun-bonnit and my blue calicler double gownd; I'm a gwine out.' 'Massy sakes!' says Poll says she, 'does Miss Savage know't the blue double gownd has got one sleeve a'most ripped out, and the linnin's all tore so't hangs all down below the outside round the bottom?' 'Poll,' says I, 'if 'twan't that you've jest come out o' Pennsylvania woods and don't know nothin' about manners yet, I'd discharge ye on the spot for darin' to question me, or make any remarks about what I order. I'll forgive ye this time on account o' yer ignorance, but if ever you dew it agin you'll git your walkin'-ticket on short order, as sure as my name's Miss Samson Savage. Now start yer stumps, and fetch them things quick meter.' So she fecht 'em, and I went and done my shoppin'. On my way hum, it struck me that you was to meet here to-day, so thinks me, I'll jest step in and see what they're up tew.' 'Will you take some sewin?' says Miss Birsley; 'Not I,' says she, 'till I know what I'm a sewin for. What do ye calculate to dew with the money ye raise?'

'We thought,' says Miss Birsley, 'that is, the majority of us thought 'twould be a good idee to arn enough to repair the meetin'-house and build a new pulpit.' 'Murder!' says Miss Savage; 'well I vow if that wouldent be a *worthy* object.' 'So you don't approve on't, hey?' says Miss Birsley. 'Approve on't!' says she; 'not I.'

'No more don't me and Polly Mariar,' says Miss Stillman. Miss Savage went on: 'I'd look purty, wouldent I, a workin' to fix up that meetin'-house for Mr. Tuttle to preach in!'—'So you don't like Mr. Tuttle, hey!' says Miss Birsley. 'Like him!' says she; 'not I. He don't know nothin'—can't preach no more'n *that stove-pipe*,' (she hates Parson Tuttle 'cause he hain't never paid no more attention to her than he has to the rest o' the congregation,) 'he's as green as grass and as flat as a pancake.' 'That's jest what mar and me thinks,' says Polly Mariar Stillman. Miss Savage went on: 'He don't know B from a broomstick, nor bran when the bag's open.' 'That's jest what I think,' says Miss Stillman. 'I says to Mr. Stillman last Sabbath, as we was a comin' from meetin', 'Mr. Stillman,' says I'—But what 'twas she said to Mr. Stillman, dear knows, for Miss Savage dident let her go on. 'I say,' says she, 'I'd look beautiful a comin' to sewin' society and workin' the eends o' my fingers off to build a pulpit for Tuttle to be poked up in Sabbath after Sabbath, and preach off jest what he's a mind tew. No—ye don't ketch me a takin' a stitch for such an object. I despise Tuttle, and I'll tell him so tew his face when I git a chance. Ye don't ketch me a slanderin' folks behind ther backs and then soft-soapin' 'em to their faces, as some folks dew'—(here she lookt at Miss Stillman and Polly Mariar.) 'And where's his wife, I'd like to know? Why ain't *she* here to work to-day? A purty piece o' bisness, I must say, for you all to be here a diggin' away to fix up Tuttle's meetin'-house, when *she's* to hum a playin' *lady*.' 'Miss Tuttle ain't very well.' says I. 'That's a likely story,' says Miss Savage; and from that she went on and blazed away about Miss Tuttle at a terrible rate. Miss Stillman and Polly Mariar, and a number more o' the wimmin, sot tew and helped her whenever they could git a word in edgeways; and such a haulin' over as Miss Tuttle and the parson got, I never heerd afore in all the days o' my life.

While they was in the midst on't, Miss Gipson come to the door and axes us to walk out to tea—she'd ben out all the afternoon a gittin' it reddy—so we put up our work and went out. We don't have the tea handed round at our meetin's as a gineral thing; we have the things sot on a long table; the woman o' the house pours tea at one eend, and we all stan' round and help ourselves. It's very convenient, especially where they don't keep no help. Well, we all took hold, and for a while Parson Tuttle and his wife and everybody else had a restin' spell, for even Miss Samson Savage had other use for her tongue. She believes in dewin' one thing at once. When *she* eats she *eats*—and when she talks she talks.

And we had a real nice tea, I tell ye—biscuit and butter, and crackers and cheese, and cold meat and pickles, and custard and whipt cream, and three kinds o' *preserves*, and *four* kinds o' cake, and what not! I couldent help o' thinkin' that the money laid out on that tea would a went a good way toward the new pulpit.

'What delightful biscuit,' says Miss Grimes, 'They are so,' says Miss Skinner; 'but Miss Gipson never has poor biscuit.' 'O shaw!' says Miss Gipson, 'you ain't in arnest; my biscuits is miserable—not nigh so good as common. I don't think the flour's first rate.'—'Miss Gipson, how *dew* you make crackers?'—says Miss Stillman; 'I never tasted none so good.' 'Now you don't *mean* so,' says Miss Gipson. 'I *can* make good crackers, but them's very poor; the oven wan't just right when I put 'em in.' 'I *must* have another piece o' this cheese, its *so* good,' says Miss Lippinott.—'Where *did* you git it?' 'Well, I got it of old Daddy Sharp; he ginerally makes excellent cheese, but I tell Mr. Gipson old Sharp's failed for once—that's what I call *poor* cheese.'—'Dew taste o' this plum sass, Miss Peabody,' says Miss Brewster; 'I never see the beat on't.' 'I'd ruther have these peaches,' says Miss Peabody; 'they're *delicious*. It is a mystery to me how Miss Gipson always has such luck with her presarves. I never dew, and I always take pound for pound tew.' 'This apple-jel's the clearest I ever see,' says old Miss Parker. 'How *did* you make it, Miss Gipson? Didont you dew it in the sun? I'm sure it don't look as if it ever was nigh the fire.'—'Now don't speak o' that jel,' says Miss Gipson. 'I told Caroline I was ashamed of my jel after seein' Miss Parker's, and I was a'most sorry I'd made any presarves since I'd eat some of Miss Skinner's, hers was *so* much nicer.' So they went on. The whipt cream and custard had to be gone over; Miss Gipson had to tell jest how 'twas made—what flavorin' she used, and all that—though she declared she was ashamed on't. The *cake* was praised up; they must know how much butter ther was in *this*, how many eggs it took for *that* and so forth. Miss Gipson, *of* course, run it down—she *could* make good cake, but somehow she failed that time. A person that *didont* know how wimmin always go on at such a place, would a thought that Miss Gipson had tried to have everything the miserablest she possibly could, and that the rest on 'em had never had anything to hum but what was miserabler yet.

Well, everything arthly comes to an eend, and so did that tea after a spell, and party soon after we went hum. Miss Stillman invited us to meet to their house next time. She urged Miss Sampson Savage to come, and I don't doubt but what she will if she thinks ther's any chance for kickin' up a muss. I was in to Miss Birsley's the next day, and she and I talked it over. She says we hain't accomplished much yit, for some o' the work's done so miserable 'twon't never sell in creation without it's picked out and done over better. The rest is put together wrong, and has got to be took to pieces whether or no. For my part, I feel eeny most discouraged about the sewin' society.

KANSAS AFFAIRS.

Report from the Minority of the Senate Committee on Territories.

PRESENTED MARCH 12, 1856.

Mr Collamer, from the Minority of the Committee on Territories, to whom was referred the President's Message on affairs in Kansas, makes the following

REPORT.

Thirteen of the present prosperous States of this Union passed through the period of apprenticeship or pupilage of Territorial training under the guardianship of Congress, preparatory to assuming their proud rank of manhood as sovereign and independent States. This period of their pupilage was, in every case, a period of the good offices of parent and child, in the kind relationship sustained between the National and Territorial Government, and may be remembered with feelings of gratitude and pride. We have fallen on different times. A Territory of our Government is now convulsed with violence and discord, and the whole family of our nation is in a state of excitement and anxiety. The National Executive Power is put in motion, the army in requisition, and Congress is invoked for interference. In this case, as in all others of difficulty, it becomes necessary to inquire what is the true cause of existing trouble; in order to apply efficient cure. It is but temporary palliations to deal with the external and more obvious manifestations and developments, while the real prevailing cause lies unattended to, uncorrected and unredressed.—It is said that organized opposition to law exists in Kansas. That, if existing, may probably be suppressed by the President, by the aid of the army; and so, too, may invasions by armed bodies from Missouri, if the executive be sincere in its efforts; but when this is done, while the cause of trouble remains the results will continue with renewed and increased developments of danger. Let us then look fairly and undisguisedly into the subject in its true character and history. Wherein does this Kansas Territory differ from all our other territories, which have been so peacefully and successfully carried through, and been developed into the manhood of independent States? Can that difference account for existing troubles?—Can that difference as a cause of trouble be removed?

The first and great point of difference between the Territorial Government of Kansas and that of the thirteen Territorial Governments before mentioned, consists in the subject of Slavery, the undoubted cause of the present trouble. The action of Congress in relation to all those Territories was conducted on a uniform and prudent principle, to wit, to settle, by clear provision, the law in relation to the subject of Slavery to be operative in the Territory while it remained such, not leaving it in any of those cases, to be a subject of controversy within the same, while in the plastic gristle of its youth. This was done by Congress in the exercise of the same power which moulded the organic laws, and appointed their executive and judiciary, and, at the same time, their legislative affairs. It was the power provided in the Constitution in those words: "Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the Territory or other property belonging to the United States." Settling the subject of Slavery, while the country remained a territory was a higher exercise of power in Congress, than the regulation of the functions of the territorial Government, and actually appointing its principal functionaries. This practice commenced with this national Government, and was continued with uninterrupted uniformity for more than *sixty* years. This practical cotemporaneous construction of the constitutional *power* of this Government is too clear to leave room for doubt or opportunity for scepticism. The peace, prosperity and success which attended this course and the results which have ensued, in the formation and admission of the thirteen States therefrom, are most conclusive and satisfactory evidence also, of the wisdom and prudence with which this *power was exercised*. Deluded must be that people who, in the pursuit of plausible theories, become *deaf* to lessons and blind to the results of their own experience. Let us next inquire by what rule of uniformity Congress was governed in the exercise of this power of determining the condition of each Territory as to Slavery, while remaining a Territory, as manifested in those thirteen instances.—An examination of our history will show that this was not done, from time to time, by agitations and local or party triumphs in Congress. The rule pursued was uniformly clear; and whoever may have lost by it, peace and prosperity have been gained. That rule was this: Where Slavery was actually existing in a country, to any considerable or general extent, it was (though somewhat modified as to further importations, in some instances, as in Mississippi and other Territories) suffered to remain. The fact that it had been taken and existed there, was taken as an indication of its adaptation and local utility. When Slavery did not in fact exist, to any appreciable extent, the same was by Congress expressly prohibited.—So that, in either case, the country settled up without difficulty or doubt as to the character of its institutions. In no instance was this difficult and disturbing subject left to the people who had and who might settle in the Territory, to be thus an everlasting bone of contention, so long as the territorial government should continue. It was even regarded too as a subject in which the whole country had an interest, and, therefore, improper for local legislation.

And, though, whenever the people of a territory come to form their own organic law as an independent State, they would either before or after their admission as a State, form and mould their institutions, as a sovereign State in their own way, yet it must be expected, and has always proved true, that the State has taken the character her pupilage has prepared her for; as well in respect to Slavery as in other respects. Hence, six of the thirteen States are Free States because Slavery was prohibited in them by Congress while Territories, to wit: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa. *Seven of the thirteen are Slaveholding States because Slavery was allowed in them by Congress while they were territories, to wit: Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri.

On the 6th of March, A. D. 1820, was passed by Congress the act preparatory to the admission of the State of Missouri into the Union. Much controversy and discussion arose on the question, whether a prohibition of Slavery, within said State, should be inserted, and it resulted in this, that said State should be admitted, without such prohibition, but that Slavery should *forever be prohibited* in the rest of that country ceded to us by France, lying north 36 deg. and 30 min. north latitude; and this contract was known as the Missouri Compromise. Under this arrangement Missouri was admitted as a Slaveholding State. The same having been a Slaveholding Territory. Arkansas, south of the line, was formed into a Territory. And Slavery allowed therein, and afterwards admitted as a Slaveholding State.—Iowa was made a Territory, north of the line, and under the operation of the law, was settled up without slaves, and admitted as a Free State. It was so done. The country now making the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska in 1820 was almost entirely uninhabited, and lay north of said line, and whatever settlers entered the same before 1854 did so under that law forever forbidding Slavery therein.

In 1855 Congress passed an act establishing the two new Territories, Nebraska and Kansas, in this region of country, where Slavery had been prohibited for more than 30 years, and instead of leaving said law against Slavery in operation, or prohibiting or expressly allowing or establishing Slavery, Congress left the subject in said Territories, to be discussed, agitated, legislated on, from time to time, and the elections in said Territories to be conducted with reference to that subject, from year to year, so long as they should remain Territories. For whatever laws might be passed by the Territorial Legislature on this subject must be subject to change or repeal by those of the succeeding years. In all former Territorial Governments it was provided by law that their laws were subject to the revision of Congress; so that they would be made with caution. In these Territories that was omitted. The provision in relation to Slavery in Nebraska and Kansas is as follows: "The eighth section of the act preparatory to the admission of Missouri into the Union, (which being inconsistent with the *principle* of non-intervention by Congress with Slavery in the States and Territories, as recognized by the Legislature of 1850, commonly called the Compromise measures,) is hereby declared *inoperative and void*; it being the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate Slavery into said Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof *perfectly free* to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States; provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to revive or put in force any law or regulation which may have existed prior to the act of 6th March, 1820, either protecting, establishing, prohibiting or abolishing Slavery." Thus it was promulgated to the people of the whole country that there was a clear field for competition, an open course for the race of rivalship, the goal of which was the ultimate establishment of a State, and the prize the reward of everlasting liberty and its institutions, on the hand, or the perpetuity of Slavery and its concomitants on the other. It is the obvious duty of this Government, while this law continues, to see this manifesto faithfully and honorably and honestly performed, even though its particular supporters may see cause of a result unfavorable to their hopes. It is further to be observed, that in the performance of this sacred experiment, it was provided that all white men who became inhabitants in Kansas were entitled to vote, without regard to their *time of residence*, usually provided in other Territories.—Nor was this right of voting confined to American citizens, but included all such aliens as had or would declare, on oath, their intention to become citizens. This was the proclamation to the world to become inhabitants of Kansas, and enlist in the great enterprise by the force of numbers, by votes to decide for it, the great question. Was it to be expected that the great proclamation for the political tournament would be listened to with indifference and apathy?—Was it proposed and presented in that spirit? Did it relate to a subject on which the people were cool or indifferent? A large part of the people of this country look on domestic Slavery as "only evil and that continually," alike to master and to slave, and to the community, to be left alone to the management or enjoyment of the people of the States where it exists, but not to be extended, more especially as it gives, or may give, political supremacy to a minority of the people of this country in the United States Government. On the other hand, many of the people of another part of the United States regard Slavery, *if not in the abstract a blessing*, at least, as now existing, a condition of society best for both white and black, while they exist together; while others regard it as no evil, but as the highest state of social condition. These consider that they cannot, with safety to their interests, permit political ascendency to be largely in the hands of those unfriendly to this peculiar institution. From these conflicting views long and violent has been the controversy, and experience seems to show it interminable.—Many and probably a large majority of this nation, lovers of quiet, entertained the hope that after 1850 the so called Compromise Measures, even though not satisfactory to the Free States would be kept by their supporters, and made by them what they were professed to be, a finality on the subject of the extent and limitation of Slave territory, more especially after the assurances contained in the Inaugural Address of President Pierce. This hope was fortified with the consideration that, at that time, Congress had, by different provisions, settled by law the conditions of freedom or Slavery for all the territory of the United States. These hopes have been disappointed, and from this very provision for repose has been extracted a principle for disturbing the condition of things on which its foundation of finality rested, that is the permanence and continuance of the then existing condition of legal provisions. The establishment of the Territorial Governments for Utah and New-Mexico, without a prohibition of Slavery was sustained by many on the ground that no such provision was required for its exclusion as the condition of the country and its laws was a sufficient barrier and therefore this sustained them, because it would complete the series and furnish the provisions as to Slavery in all our Territories, and make an end of controversy on that subject. Yet in 1854 it was insisted by the friends and supporters of the laws of 1850, and, it is actually asserted in the law establishing the Territorial Government of Kansas, that the then laws for New-Mexico and the Compromise measures then adopted contain a *principle* utterly at war with their great and professed object of finality, and that instead of completing and ending the provisions of Congressional action for the Territories as to Slavery, it really declared a principle which unsettled all those where Slavery had been prohibited, and rendered it proper, and only proper, to declare such prohibition all "*inoperative and void*." The spirit and feeling which thus perverted those *Compromise laws* and made them direct instrument of renewed disturbance, could not be expected then to leave the result to the decision of the people of Kansas, with inactivity and indifference. The Slaveholding States in 1850 secured the admission of Missouri as a Slaveholding State, and all the region south of 36 deg. 30 min., to the same purpose, by enjoining and enacting that all north of that line should be *forever free*, and by this they obtained only a sufficient number of votes from the Free States, as counted with their own, to adopt it. In 1850, they agreed that if New-Mexico and Utah were made Territories without a prohibition of Slavery, it would, with the laws already made for the rest of our territory, settle forever the whole subject. This proposition for such a termination also secured votes from the Free States enough, with their own from the Slaveholding States, to adopt it. In 1854, in utter disregard of their repeated contracts, both those arrangements were broken, and both those compromises disregarded, and all their provisions for freedom declared inoperative and void by the vote of the Slaveholding States, with a very few honorable exceptions, and a minority of the votes of the Free States. After this extraordinary and inexcusable proceeding it was not to be expected that the people of the Slaveholding States wo'd take any active measures to secure a favorable result, by votes in the Territory of Kansas.—Neither could it be expected that the people of the Free States, who regarded the act of 1854 as a double breach of faith, would sit down and make no effort, by legal means, to correct it.—It has been said that the repeal of the provisions of the Missouri Compromise, and the breach of the Compromise of 1850, should not be regarded as measures of the Slaveholding States because it was presented by a Senator from a Free State.

The actions or votes of one or more individual men cannot give character to, or be regarded as fixing a measure on their section or party. The only true or honest mode of determining whether any measure is that of any section or party, is to ascertain whether the *majority* of that section or party voted for it. Now, a large majority, indeed, the whole, with a few rare exceptions of the Representatives from the Slaveholding States, voted for that repeal. On the other hand, a majority of the Representatives from the Free States voted against it.—This subject of Slavery in the Territories which has violently agitated the country for many years, and which has been attempted to be settled twice by Compromises, as before stated, does not remain settled. The Missouri Compromise and the supposed finality by the Act of 1850, are scattered and displaced by the vote of the Slaveholding States; and it is not to be disguised that this uncalled for and disturbing measure has produced a spirit of resentment, from a feeling of its injustice, which, while the cause continues, will be difficult to allay. The subject, which Congress has been unable to settle in any such way as the Slave States will sustain, is now turned over to those who have or shall become inhabitants of Kansas to arrange, and all men are invited to participate in the experiment, regardless of their character, political or religious views, or place of nativity. Now what is the *right* and the *duty* of the people of this country in relation to this matter? Is it not right in all who believe in the blessings of Slaveholding, and regard it as the best condition of society, either to go to Kansas as inhabitants, and by their votes to help settle this good condition of that Territory; or if they cannot so go and settle, is it not their duty, by all lawful means in their power, to promote this object by inducing others like-minded to go? This *right* becomes a *duty* to all who follow their convictions, all who regard an establishment of Slavery in Kansas as best for that Territory, or as necessary to their own safety, by the political weight it gives in the National Government, should use all lawful means to secure that result; and clearly the inducing men to go there to become permanent inhabitants and voters, and to vote, as often as the elections occur, in favor of the establishment of Slavery, and thus control the election and preserve it a Slave State forever, is neither unlawful nor censurable. It is, and would be, highly praiseworthy and commendable, because it is using lawful means to carry forward honest convictions of public good. All lawfully